

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 02007 071608Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/058 W

----- 070095

R 071517Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5027

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, AU, YO

SUBJECT: SUGGESTION OF SLOVENE MINORITY LEADER:

SIGNATORY POWERS OF 1955 TREATY SHOULD
INTERPRET MINORITY RIGHTS ARTICLE

REF: A. VIENNA 1964

B. VIENNA 1777

1. SLOVENE MINORITY LEADER VALENTIN INZKO HAS PUT FORWARD SUGGESTION THAT GOA ASK FOUR SIGNATORY POWERS (US, UK, USSR, FRANCE) OF 1955 STATE TREATY TO GIVE "AUTHENTIC INTERPRETATION" OF ARTICLE 7 (TREATMENT OF MINORITIES) OF TREATY WHICH WOULD THEN BE BINDING ON EVERYONE. INZKO FLOATED IDEA IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE OF "PRAESENT," MINOR CARINTHIAN PUBLICATION AND SAID SUCH MOVE WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO INTERNATIONALIZING MINORITY QUESTION. HE SUGGESTED SLOVENE MINORITY LEADERS SEIZE OPPORTUNITY (WHICH THEY ALREADY HAVE - REF A) OF KREISKY INVITATION FOR TALKS TO REITERATE THEIR VIEWPOINT ON "SPECIAL MINORITY CENSUS" BEFORE THEY ADOPT FIRM POSITION ON POSSIBLE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF ISSUE.

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 02007 071608Z

2. COMMENT: INZKO IS SLOVENE MINORITY MEMBER OF CARINTHIAN COMMITTEE OF CATHOLIC CHURCH AND FORMER CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF CARINTHIAN SLOVENES, ONE OF TWO MINORITY UMBRELLA ORGANIZATIONS. IDEA OF CALLING ON SIGNATORY POWERS FOR INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE 7 HAS BEEN BRUIED ABOUT PRIVATELY AND INCONCLUSIVELY BY SLOVENE MINORITY GROUPS IN CARINTHIA IN THE PAST. PUBLIC SURFACING OF SUGGESTION AT THIS TIME SEEMS DESIGNED MORE AS SINGAL TO KREISKY TO GO EASY ON SLOVENE MINORITY IN WAKE OF ITS DEFEAT IN CARINTHIAN ELECTIONS AND INCREASED PRESSURES FROM THREE PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES FOR ACTION ON "SPECIAL MINORITY CENSUS" IN 1976 (REF B). ARTICLE 35 OF TREATY PROVIDES THAT "ANY DISPUTE CONCERNING INTERPRETATION OR EXECUTION OF TREATY WHICH IS NOT SETTLED BY DIRECT DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS SHALL BE REFERRED TO FOUR HEADS OF MISSIONS" IMPLICATION CLEAR FROM ARTICLE THAT ONLY NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO ADDRESS REQUEST TO SIGNATORY POWERS. INITIAL REACTION OF INFORMED MFA MIDDLE-LEVEL OFFICIAL WAS THAT GOA COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO ASK FOUR SIGNATORY POWERS TO MAKE VALUE JUDGMENT ON ITS PERFORMANCE CONCERNING SUCH SENSITIVE DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE. SAME SOURCE SUGGESTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA WOULD ALSO HAVE DIFFICULTY ENDORSING INZKO PROPOSAL IN VIEW OF ITS OWN DOMESTIC MINORITY PROBLEMS. MOWINCKEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, MINORITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENNA02007
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750081-0485
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750370/aaaacldm.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 VIENNA 1964
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <02 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUGGESTION OF SLOVENE MINORITY LEADER: SIGNATORY POWERS OF 1955 TREATY SHOULD
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, AU, YO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006